

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERN 01641 181523Z

60

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAJ-01

ACDA-10 EA-10 IO-10 /098 W
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R 181505Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 575

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

UNCLAS BERN 1641

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, AU, SZ

SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN DEFENSE MINISTER'S PRESS CONFERENCE

1. AUSTRIAN DEFENSE MINISTER, BRIGADIER GENERAL KARL L. LUETGENDORF, WHO VISITED SWITZERLAND AT INVITATION OF SWISS DEFENSE MINISTER GNAEGI APRIL 14-18, HELD PRESS CONFERENCE IN BERN AT CONCLUSION OF VISIT. LUETGENDORF WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT "THE ASSERTION 'THE RUSSIANS ARE COMING' IS A CHINESE PROPAGANDA SLOGAN. IT WAS AFTER ALL THE SOVIET UNION WHICH CREATED A NEUTRAL AUSTRIA IN 1955 AND WITHDREW ITS FORCES FROM OUT COUNTRY. IN THIS WAY THE USSR WANTED TO DEMONSTRATE A MODEL SHOWING THAT IT WOULD RESPECT TRUE NEUTRALITY."

2. LUETGENDORF FURTHER SAID THAT AUSTRIA'S DEFENSE SYSTEM WAS COMING CLOSER TO THAT OF SWITZERLAND. MOREOVER, AUSTRIA HAD PROFITED MILITARILY FROM ITS PARTICIPATION IN UN PEACE-KEEPING ACTIVITIES. "I TOLD MR. GNAEGI ABOUT THIS WITHOUT, OF COURSE, GIVING HIM ANY ADVICE."

3. RE PROCUREMENT, LUETGENDORF STATED THAT WHILE HIS COUNTRY GAVE PRIORITY TO ANTI-TANK AND ANTI-AIRCRAFT, A CERTAIN DEGREE OF COOPERATION WITH THE SWISS WOULD BE POSSIBLE IN TANK AND AIRCRAFT PROCUREMENT.

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4. LUETGENDORF SAID HE WAS VERY SATISFIED WITH HIS VISIT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition History: n/a
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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